FROM THE MAGAZINE RACK NO. 72 MARCH 3, 1976
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LEGAL RIGHTS STILL CLOUDY FOR EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLDS
(U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT)
ANATOMY OF A NEWSCAST (TV GUIDE)

ANNCR: HERE IS _____ WITH FROM THE MAGAZINE RACK ... VOICE OF AMERICA SUMMARIES OF ARTICLES ON TIMELY TOPICS FROM AMERICAN MAGAZINES. TODAY: A SUMMARY OF LEGAL RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS HELD BY EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLDS IN THE U-S, FROM U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT; AND, FROM TV GUIDE, THE ANATOMY OF A NEWSCAST.

REPORTER: FIVE YEARS AGO THE TWENTY-SIXTH AMENDMENT TO THE U-S CONSTITUTION GAVE EIGHTEEN-YEAR-OLDS THE RIGHT TO VOTE IN ALL ELECTIONS. SINCE THEN FORTY-EIGHT OF THE FIFTY STATES HAVE MADE MAJOR CHANGES IN THEIR LAWS DEFINING A LEGAL ADULT. BUT THE CHANGES ARE NOT UNIFORM AND THE WAY THEY ARE APPLIED ALSO VARIES.

AS U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT NOTES:

VOICE: "IN SOME AREAS YOUNG PEOPLE ARE ROUTINELY CALLED FOR JURY DUTY. IN OTHERS, LAWYERS OPPOSE THEIR SERVICE.

"LANDLORDS USUALLY STILL REQUIRE THAT PARENTS COSIGN LEASES. EXCEPTIONS: THE FEW NEW ADULTS WHO CAN SHOW WELL-ESTABLISHED INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT RECORDS.

"AVAILABILITY OF CREDIT DIFFERS FROM STORE TO STORE AND BANK TO BANK. GENERALLY, IT'S DIFFICULT FOR YOUTHS TO GET CREDIT WITHOUT COSIGNERS, ALTHOUGH SCATTERED SIGNS SUGGEST THEY CAN BE GOOD RISKS.

VOICE:
(CONT'D) "THE PRIVILEGE LEAST LIKELY TO BE ACCORDED TO EIGHTEEN YEAR OLDS IS PERMISSION TO BUY AND CONSUME ALL TYPES OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WITHOUT RESTRICTION."

REPORTER:

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT GIVING EIGHTEEN YEAR OLDS THE RIGHT TO VOTE WAS BORN DURING THE PEAK OF THE PROTESTS AGAINST THE VIETNAM WAR. CONGRESS TRIED TO GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE THE VOTE IN FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL ELECTIONS BY STATUTE. BUT THE SUPREME COURT STRUCK THE LAW DOWN SAYING IT WAS NOT SPECIFIC ENOUGH.

SO CONGRESS RESPONDED BY ADOPTING A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT THAT WAS RATIFIED (APPROVED BY THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF STATES) IN THE RECORD TIME OF FOURTEEN WEEKS. U.S. NEWS WRITES:

VOICE: "RIGHTS INVOLVED IN THE AGE OF MAJORITY INCLUDE THE LEGAL ABILITY TO MARRY WITHOUT PARENTAL CONSENT; SIGN BINDING CONTRACTS, SUCH AS LEASES AND INSTALLMENT-PURCHASE AGREEMENTS; OWN PROPERTY; SERVE ON JURIES; HOLD ELECTIVE OFFICE; SUE AND BE SUED IN ONE'S OWN NAME; MAKE A WILL; UNDERGO SERIOUS MEDICAL TREATMENT, INCLUDING SURGERY, AS DESIRED."

THE MAGAZINE CONDUCTED A NATION-WIDE SURVEY ON THE REALITY OF THE SITUATION AND FOUND THAT SOME RIGHTS OF THE "NEW ADULTS" ARE EASIER TO EXERCISE THAN OTHERS.

VOICE:
(CONT'D) U-S NEWS FOUND THAT IT IS STILL DIFFICULT FOR EIGHTEEN-YEAR OLDS TO GET CREDIT BECAUSE STORES AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS STILL INSIST THAT THE YOUNG ADULTS MEET THE SAME REQUIREMENTS AS OLDER CREDIT USERS, INCLUDING A HISTORY OF REGULAR INCOME AND STEADY EMPLOYMENT. BUT U.S. NEWS SAYS THERE ARE POSITIVE ASPECTS TO THE PICTURE:

"... SOME BUSINESSES THAT HAVE TAKEN A CHANCE ON THEM SAY THAT THEY ARE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED.

"'THE REPAYMENT HISTORY AND THE MANNER IN WHICH THEY ARE USING THE ACCOUNTS IS BETTER THAN THAT OF OUR TYPICAL CUSTOMER, WHICH SPEAKS WELL FOR THEM,' REPORTS R-A NASH, VICE PRESIDENT IN CHARGE OF MASTER CHARGE CREDIT CARDS IN ATLANTA (GEORGIA)."

REPORTER:

SOME BUSINESSMEN DISAGREE, HOWEVER, CITING A LACK OF EMPLOYMENT AND EARNING STABILITY ON THE PART OF MANY NEW ADULTS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO HANDLE CREDIT PROPERLY AND HAVE RUN UP LARGE ACCOUNTS OR DEFAULTED.

THE RESULTS OF THE MAGAZINE'S SURVEY IN THE AREA OF SIGNING LEASES, SERVING ON JURIES AND ESTABLISHING LEGAL RESIDENCES ARE MIXED. DESPITE LAWS TO THE CONTRARY, SOME APARTMENT MANAGERS STILL REQUIRE YOUNG ADULTS TO HAVE CO-SIGNERS, OR ADULTS WHO WILL ACCEPT ULTIMATE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RENT PAYMENTS. U.S. NEWS POINTS OUT ANOTHER ASPECT OF NEW ADULTHOOD:

VOICE: "JURY DUTY IS A VERY MIXED PICTURE FOR YOUNG ADULTS. IN SOME AREAS COURT OFFICIALS SAY YOUNG PEOPLE GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO AVOID IT. SOME LAWYERS SAY FRANKLY THEY DON'T WANT THEM BECAUSE THEY ARE TOO UNPREDICTABLE."

REPORTER:

ONE COLLEGE ADMINISTRATOR WHO HAS OBSERVED THE SITUATION SAYS THAT SOME YOUNG PEOPLE WANT THE BEST OF THE ADULT WORLD AND THE WORLD OF YOUTH. IN HIS WORDS:

VOICE: "'THEY DON'T HESITATE TO REMIND YOU THAT THEY ARE ADULTS," HE SAYS, 'BUT AS SOON AS THEY FALL INTO SOME OF THE PITFALLS THAT ADULTS.FALL INTO, THEN THEY SAY, 'LOOK, I'M ONLY EIGHTEEN YEARS OLD.'"

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REPORTER:

MORE AMERICANS GET THE NEWS OF THE DAY FROM TELEVISION THAN FROM ANY OTHER SINGLE SOURCE. AT LEAST FORTY MILLION PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES WATCH THE EARLY EVENING NEWSCAST PRODUCED BY THE THREE MAJOR COMMERCIAL TELEVISION NETWORKS IN THE COUNTRY. BUT FEW PEOPLE KNOW HOW THESE THIRTY-MINUTE NEWS PROGRAMS ARE PUT TOGETHER.

IN "TV GUIDE" ERIC LEVIN DESCRIBES HOW THE NBC NIGHTLY NEWS GOT ON THE AIR ONE EVENING IN MID-SEPTEMBER.

THE NERVE CENTER FOR THE NIGHTLY NEWS IS A LARGE CLUTTERED OFFICE IN THE RCA BUILDING IN ROCKEFELLER CENTER IN THE HEART OF NEW YORK CITY. THE DAY BEGINS AT 9:15 A.M. WHEN ASSOCIATE PRODUCER HARRY GRIGGS WALKS INTO THE NEWS

REPORTER:
(CONT'D)

ROOM AND SETS UP THE FIRST OF SEVERAL TELEPHONE CONFERENCE CALLS TO NBC NEWS REGIONAL BUREAUS TO FIND OUT WHAT STORIES THEY PLAN TO SEND THAT DAY. THE WASHINGTON BUREAU REPORTS FIRST:

WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENT TOM BROKAW WILL COVER A MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND THE MAYORS OF FOURTEEN LARGE CITIES. ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT IRVING R. LEVINE WILL COVER AFL-CIO PRESIDENT GEORGE MEANY, SCHEDULED TO CRITICIZE GOVERNMENT JOB POLICIES BEFORE A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE. LEGAL CORRESPONDENT CARL STERN WILL REPORT ON A GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL AUDIT OF THE F-B-I. AND CAPITOL HILL REPORTER FORD ROWAN WOULD CONTINUE HIS COVERAGE OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE HEARINGS ON DOMESTIC SPYING BY THE C-I-A. AUTHOR LEVIN GOES ON:

VOICE: "THE OTHER BUREAUS FOLLOWED. ATLANTA EXPECTED TO FILE A REPORT ON HURRICANE DAMAGE. CHICAGO AND CLEVELAND WERE WORKING ON STORIES FOR FUTURE BROADCAST. IN CALIFORNIA, THE BURBANK BUREAU WAS HOPING TO FILE A REPORT ON THE CONTROVERSY OVER AEROSOL SPRAYS AND THE OZONE LAYER. THE NORTHEAST BUREAU (IN NEW YORK) WAS WORKING ON A TEACHERS' STRIKE IN DELAWARE AND A BROADWAY MUSICIANS' STRIKE. MOST OF THE BUREAUS HAD OTHER STORIES AWAITING DEVELOPMENTS."

REPORTER:

AT 10:10 A.M. THE NIGHTLY NEWS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, LES CRYSTAL, ARRIVES WITH ANCHORMAN JOHN CHANCELLOR AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE STAFF. AFTER THEIR BRIEFING BY ASSOCIATE PRODUCER GRIGGS, THEY HOLD THEIR DAILY BRIEFING FOR TOP EXECUTIVES OF NBC NEWS. MISTER LEVIN PICKS UP THE STORY:

VOICE: "IN THEORY, THE NUMBER OF STORIES AVAILABLE FOR THE EVENING BROADCAST WAS INFINITE, BUT MORE REALISTICALLY, THERE WERE ABOUT EIGHTY CANDIDATES, COUNTING STORIES ALREADY ASSIGNED, SCHEDULED EVENTS, UPDATES OF CONTINUING STORIES, AND FEATURE OR OVERVIEW STORIES ALREADY COMPLETED AND WAITING ON THE SHELF. OF THE ROUGHLY EIGHTY POSSIBILITIES ABOUT TWENTY-FIVE HELD THE EDITORS' ATTENTION. THE OVERRIDING REALITY EACH DAY IS THAT A HALF-HOUR NEWSCAST CAN ACCOMMODATE ONLY FOURTEEN TO TWENTY REPORTS."

REPORTER:

MID-MORNING AT THE WHITE HOUSE, AND INTO PRESIDENT FORD'S FIRST FULL DAY BACK IN WASHINGTON AFTER THE SEPTEMBER 1975 ATTEMPT ON HIS LIFE BY SARAH JANE MOORE. CORRESPONDENT BROKAW AND OTHER WHITE HOUSE REPORTERS ARE WAITING TO FIND OUT HOW MRS. MOORE ESCAPED DETECTION BY THE SECRET SERVICE. THEY ALSO WANT TO KNOW IF MR. FORD IS DEMANDING A REVIEW OF SECRET SERVICE PROCEDURES. AND, WILL THE PRESIDENT CURTAIL HIS TRAVELS. BUT THEY WON'T GET ANSWERS FOR ABOUT AN HOUR, UNTIL THE MORNING WHITE HOUSE NEWS BRIEFING.

REPORTER:
(CONT'D)

AT 10:40 N-B-C NEW YORK LEARNS OF ANOTHER MAJOR NEWS DEVELOPMENT: SENATOR FRANK CHURCH, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING THE C-I-A, REVEALS THAT THE AGENCY HAS OPENED SOME OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S MAIL WITHOUT HIS KNOWLEDGE. THE COMMITTEE'S HEARING IS NOW A MAJOR STORY.

AT 11:35 A.M. WHITE HOUSE NEWS SECRETARY RON NESSEN MEETS WITH REPORTERS TO DISCUSS PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY. TO TOM BROKAW, THE OUTLINE OF A STORY IS TAKING SHAPE AS MISTER LEVIN REPORTS:

VOICE: "AT ABOUT 12:15 THE NIGHTLY NEWS STAFF ASSEMBLED IN LES CRYSTAL'S OFFICE FOR THE DAY'S FIRST MAJOR MEETING, THE RUNDOWN MEETING. 'IT LOOKS LIKE WASHINGTON IS GOING TO BE VERY HEAVY AGAIN TODAY,' CRYSTAL TOLD THE STAFF. 'I DON'T SEE ANY WAY AROUND IT. THERE ARE FOUR OR FIVE STORIES POSSIBLE. OBVIOUSLY, THE MAIL, THE F-B-I, FORD, THE MAYORS ..."

REPORTER:

1:00 P.M. LUNCH FOR SOME STAFFERS; OTHERS GET DOWN TO THEIR DAILY CARD GAME.

AT 2:10 P.M. ANOTHER PHONE CONVERSATION BETWEEN N-B-C NEW YORK AND N-B-C WASHINGTON: C-I-A MAIL OPENING STORY AND F-B-I AUDIT ARE GETTING STRONGER AND THE MEANY STORY IS SCRAPPED ... HE'S SAID THE SAME THINGS BEFORE.

REPORTER:
(CONT'D)

AT 3:15 P.M., YET ANOTHER MEETING IN NEW YORK TO ALLOT TIME FOR STORIES TO BE FED TO NEW YORK FROM REGIONAL BUREAUS.

SO FAR, A TYPICAL DAY EXCEPT THAT THERE WILL BE NO STORIES FROM OVERSEAS BUREAUS ... EVERYTHING THEY HAD CAN BE HELD FOR A DAY OR TWO WITHOUT LOSING NEWS VALUE.

IN NEW YORK, NEWS PRODUCTION ASSOCIATE BAMBI TASCARELLA ADDS UP THE STORY LENGTHS AND SAYS THERE ARE FIFTY-FIVE SECONDS EXTRA IN THE TOTAL TWENTY-TWO AND ONE-HALF MINUTES OF NEWS TIME LEFT IN THE HALF-HOUR PROGRAM AFTER COMMERCIAL TIME AND STATION BREAKS ARE SUBTRACTED. MISTER LEVIN'S ACCOUNT GOES ON:

VOICE: "IN THE NEWSROOM, THE STAFF BEGINS TO DIVIDE THE WRITING CHORES: INTRODUCTIONS, ENDINGS AND STORIES TO BE READ BY (ANCHORMAN) JOHN CHANCELLOR.

REPORTER:

3:30 P.M. AT THE WHITE HOUSE: TOM BROKAW STARTS WRITING HIS STORY ON PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY.

AT FOUR IN NEW YORK, THE PACE IS QUICKENING. WRITERS CHECK AND RE-CHECK THEIR SCRIPTS, VIDEO TAPE EDITORS WORK ON THE STORIES FILED BY REGIONAL BUREAUS, AND PRODUCTION ASSISTANTS ARE GATHERING COLOR SLIDES AND ARTWORK WHICH WILL BE DISPLAYED BEHIND ANCHORMAN CHANCELLOR WHEN HE GOES ON THE AIR.

REPORTER:
(CONT'D)

FIVE P.M., NINETY MINUTES TO BROADCAST TIME, AND CORRESPONDENT BROKAW LEARNS THAT MRS. FORD HAS MADE A STATEMENT ABOUT PRESIDENTIAL SECURITY. BROKAW HAS TO REWRITE HIS SCRIPT, WORKING IN THE NEW ANGLE.

AT 5:55 P.M. THE BURBANK FEED OF THE OZONE CONTROVERSY TO NEW YORK RUNS INTO TECHNICAL PROBLEMS. ENGINEERS ARE WORKING FEVERISHLY TO CORRECT IT. MISTER LEVIN WRITES:

VOICE: "AT 6:15, P.M. FIFTEEN MINUTES TO AIR TIME, THE ASSOCIATE PRODUCER TOTALED UP THE LATEST STORY LENGTH AND BARKED, 'WE'RE A MINUTE OVER.' HE DECIDED TO DROP THE FILM OF THE MAYORS (MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD) AND SETTLE FOR A BRIEF MENTION OF THE STORY ... FIVE MINUTES LATER THE EDITORS CHECKED THE (PROBLEM) WITH THE OZONE STORY 'BETTER BUT NOT PERFECT, BUT IT WILL HAVE TO DO.' AT 6:25 P.M. CHANCELLOR PULLED ON HIS SPORTS JACKET AND LEFT FOR THE STUDIO TWO FLOORS BELOW."

REPORTER:

IN WASHINGTON, TOM BROKAW HAS REACHED THE N-B-C BUREAU WITH JUST FORTY MINUTES TO AIRTIME AND IS REWRITING HIS STORY WHEN THE NEWSCAST BEGINS. FINISHING QUICKLY, HE BARELY HAS TIME TO TAKE HIS SEAT IN THE STUDIO WHEN THE CAMERAMAN SIGNALS HE IS "ON." THE TIME: 6:40 P.M.

REPORTER:
(CONT'D)

MOMENTS LATER, PRODUCERS IN NEW YORK REALIZED THE SHOW IS RUNNING LATE AND ORDER SEVERAL STORIES CUT. AND AS AUTHOR LEVIN WRITES:

VOICE: "MINUTES LATER, AFTER THE FILMED REPORT ON THE OZONE CONTROVERSY, THE CAMERA RETURNED TO CHANCELLOR, WHO LOOKED UP AND SAID, 'AND GOODNIGHT FOR N-B-C NEWS.'"

ANNCR: YOU'VE BEEN LISTENING TO MAGAZINE RACK, VOICE OF AMERICA SUMMARIES OF TIMELY TOPICS FROM AMERICAN MAGAZINES. JOIN US AGAIN NEXT _____ (AT THIS TIME) FOR MORE SELECTIONS FROM THE MAGAZINE RACK. THIS IS _____.

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